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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To prohibit commercial offshore wind energy development in Lobster  
Management Area 1 in the Gulf of Maine, and for other purposes.

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**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Mr. GOLDEN of Maine introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To prohibit commercial offshore wind energy development  
in Lobster Management Area 1 in the Gulf of Maine,  
and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Northeast Fisheries  
5       Heritage Protection Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON COMMERCIAL OFFSHORE WIND**  
2 **ENERGY DEVELOPMENT IN LOBSTER MAN-**  
3 **AGEMENT AREA 1.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

5 (1) The New England fishing industry has been  
6 an integral part of the history, culture, and economy  
7 of the region for over 400 years.

8 (2) In 2021, New England commercial fisheries  
9 landed an estimated 501,143,142 pounds of catch,  
10 valued at \$1,968,086,375, which supports thousands  
11 of fishermen, their families, and communities that  
12 depend on these ocean resources.

13 (3) The United States lobster fishery, with  
14 Maine and Massachusetts producing 93 percent of  
15 the lobster harvest, is one of the most valuable fish-  
16 eries in the country with commercial landings total-  
17 ing 134,700,000 million pounds valued at  
18 \$925,000,000.

19 (4) Lobster Management Area 1 in the Gulf of  
20 Maine is a critical and highly productive fishing  
21 ground for halibut, tuna, flounder, redfish, black sea  
22 bass, monkfish, mackerel, rock and sand crab, mus-  
23 sels, hardshell and softshell clams, oysters, scallops,  
24 conchs, squid, and lobster.

25 (5) The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management  
26 recently published “Commercial Leasing for Wind

1 Power Development on the Gulf of Maine Outer  
2 Continental Shelf (OCS)—Call for Information and  
3 Nominations” (88 Fed. Reg. 25427; published April  
4 26, 2023), which invites public comment on potential  
5 commercial wind energy development in the Gulf of  
6 Maine.

7 (6) The Call identifies approximately 9,800,000  
8 million acres to site potential commercial offshore  
9 wind projects in the Gulf of Maine, including Lob-  
10 ster Management Areas 1 and 3 and other areas  
11 that are closed to fishing either permanently or sea-  
12 sonally in an effort to protect the endangered North  
13 Atlantic right whale.

14 (7) Siting offshore wind development outside of  
15 Lobster Management Area 1 would avoid conflict  
16 with the New England commercial and recreational  
17 fishing industries and preserve a vital fishing ground  
18 for future generations.

19 (b) PROHIBITION ON COMMERCIAL OFFSHORE WIND  
20 DEVELOPMENT IN LOBSTER MANAGEMENT AREA 1.—  
21 Notwithstanding section 8 of the Outer Continental Shelf  
22 Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1337), no lease, license, permit, or  
23 other authorization may be issued for the development of  
24 commercial offshore wind energy in Lobster Management  
25 Area 1.

1       (c) GULF OF MAINE OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT EN-  
2       VIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS STUDY.—

3           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days  
4       after the date of the enactment of this section, the  
5       Comptroller General shall conduct a study to assess  
6       the sufficiency of the environmental review processes  
7       of the national Marine Fisheries Service, the Bureau  
8       of Ocean Energy Management, and any other rel-  
9       evant Federal agency for offshore wind projects in  
10      the Gulf of Maine in place as of the date of enact-  
11      ment of this section.

12          (2) CONTENTS.—The study required under  
13      paragraph (1) shall include consideration of the fol-  
14      lowing:

15           (A) The impacts of offshore wind projects  
16      in the Gulf of Maine on—

17           (i) marine mammals, including  
18      whales;

19           (ii) finfish;

20           (iii) benthic resources;

21           (iv) the commercial and recreational  
22      fishing industries, including marine equip-  
23      ment retailers, onshore processors, fish  
24      markets, and other shoreside businesses;

1 (v) air quality and greenhouse gas  
2 emissions;

3 (vi) cultural, historical, and Tribal re-  
4 sources;

5 (vii) marine invertebrates;

6 (viii) essential fish habitat (as that  
7 term is defined in section 3 of the Magnu-  
8 son-Stevens Fishery Conservation and  
9 Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1802));

10 (ix) plankton abundance and distribu-  
11 tion;

12 (x) recreation and tourism; and

13 (xi) fisheries-dependent communities.

14 (B) How each agency described in para-  
15 graph (1) determines which stakeholders to con-  
16 sult with regard to offshore wind projects in the  
17 Gulf of Maine and if a timely, comprehensive  
18 comment period is provided for local representa-  
19 tives and interested parties with regard to such  
20 offshore wind projects.

21 (d) LOBSTER MANAGEMENT AREA 1 DEFINED.—In  
22 this section, the term “Lobster Management Area 1” has  
23 the meaning given the term “EEZ Nearshore Manage-  
24 ment Area 1” in section 697.18 of title 50, Code of Fed-  
25 eral Regulations (or a successor regulation).